Partial Transcript of Mayor Jerry Sanders 10 October 2007 Press Conference

Today my office will release a portion of the public documents related to events preceding the Mount Soledad Landslide on Wednesday, October 3rd. In the name of transparency and equal access to public documents, I thought it was important to get these documents out just as soon as possible...The documents being released cover July 18th, 2007, through the present. While not complete, the documents provide a snapshot of how the City responded to the concerns of homeowners about soil movement and utility separations in the area. Additional documents within and outside of the timeframe I just noted will be released in the coming weeks...

The documents will form part of the investigation that we've launched into the possible causes for the landslide. As you know, we have a forensics geotechnical team on site to evaluate that. The investigation will also detail the City's reaction to the events that preceded the slide. I have and will remain committed to maintaining an open mind. And I would also ask the public not to reach premature judgments or conclusions about the causes of landslide...

Well, I believe that the City of San Diego - the Mayor and the City Council - need an outside attorney to advise us on these issues because I believe the City Attorney made comments from minute one, day one, and continues to make those comments in the public that I don't' think serve and protecting the taxpayer's best interest and the City's best interest.

I think we need an objective third party that can come in and help us prepare a case for whatever eventuality comes forward. I think that what we are looking forward to is an objective investigation that will determine what the causes of those were. It appears to me that the City Attorney has already decided what his course of action is, one that he has not consulted with the [City] Council on, that he has not consulted with me on. We absolutely need to have legal advice on this and we are not receiving it.

I think there is a coupe of issues that we need somebody that is not so immersed in the event. We have to rely on somebody to give us legal advice. We are not getting that on some issues. And it makes it very difficult when the City Attorney has taken a position by himself and then we are supposed to figure out what the legal advice is on that, when the City Attorney has already determined the course of action, not asking us what we think about it. So, we need objective advice. We need good, sound legal advice on some issues.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE October 10, 2007

OFFICE OF MAYOR JERRY SANDERS PRESS RELEASE & ADVISORY

SANDERS RELEASES PUBLIC DOCUMENTS RELATED TO EVENTS PRECEDING SOLEDAD LANDSLIDE

Documents Form Part of Investigation

In furtherance of the principles of transparency and equal access to public information, Mayor Jerry Sanders today will release a portion of the public documents related to events preceding the Mount Soledad landslide on Wednesday, October 3rd. The documents being released cover July 18, 2007 through the present. As best can be discerned at present, July 18th is the first report of an activity at the site in the most recent time period. While not complete, the documents provide a snap-shot of how the City responded to the concerns of homeowners about soil movement and utility separations in the area. Additional documents, within and outside the time frame noted above, will be released in the coming weeks.

The documents will form part of the investigation that the Mayor has launched into the possible causes for the landslide. The investigation will also detail the City's reaction to events that preceded the slide, many perhaps unrelated. The Mayor has consistently asked everyone to maintain an open mind and not to reach premature judgments or conclusions. "I would ask that everyone suspend judgment on this subject until we are able to thoughtfully and deliberately determine, in an objective fashion, the circumstances that led to this catastrophic failure," said Mayor Sanders today.

MEDIA ADVISORY

What:

Sanders Releases Documents Related to Events Preceding Landslide (July 18 - present). Additional documents will be released in the following weeks.

<u>Media</u>: Media wishing a set of the documents can come to the receptionist in the Mayor's office today at 2pm. One copy will be given to each news organization. This is for accredited media ONLY.

<u>General Public</u>: The same set of documents will be available to the public through the City Clerk's office beginning tomorrow morning, Thursday, October 11.

Where/When:

For Media pick-up: Mayor's Office

City Hall

202 C Street, 11th Floor

Today, Wednesday, October 10

2pm

For General Public: City Clerk's Office

City Hall

202 C Street, 2nd Floor

Tomorrow, Thursday, October 11 [A copy will also be posted on the city's website at www.sandiego.gov]

Following this document is a summary of some of the events that preceded the slide.

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SR Comments

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5296 SOLEDAD MTN RD SD X St: EDGEWORTH	Service Area: 2
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» Sewer/Water I...

Alex Ruiz - Fwd: 16" Main Shutdown Soledad Mt. Rd. -

From:

David Jarrell

To:

Jamie Fox Rice; Steve McNally

Date:

6/18/2007 3:32 PM

Subject:

Fwd: 16" Main Shutdown Soledad Mt. Rd. -

CC:

Alex Ruiz; Bill Harris; Jeff Gattas; Richard Haas

Water service was restored at approximately 2:00 p.m.

>>> David Jarrell 6/18/2007 12:19:02 PM >>> Steve and Jamie,

Below is notification of a 16" main shutdown affecting 46 services in La Jolla. We will provide an update, including the estimated time of service restoration, as soon as it is available.

Regards, Dave

>>> Johnny Mitchell 6/18/2007 11:35 AM >>>

We are reporting the following water main emergency shutdown:

Event/Facility:

16" AC Water Main Shutdown

Location:

6062 Soledad Mt. Rd.

Throm Bros / Council:

1247 J-2 / Council District 2 (La Jolla)

Reported Date/Time:

6/18/07 11:08 AM

Shrutdown Date/Time:

6/18/07 Crew has requested regulator crews for assistance with shutdown

Imapact:

46 Services 5900-6200 Soledad Mt. Rd.

Significant Elements:

Water Ops. crews pulled existing water service from the main. Minor street

damage, no media, no environmental issues

Temp Water Source:

Status:

N/A

Est Service Restoration:

Crew on site making repairs
Unknown at this time. Updates will be provided.

Service Request #:

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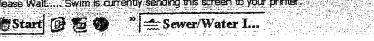
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Patti Boekamp - Fwd: 5700 Block of Soledad Mt. Road - Concerns of Citizens

From:

Jim Barrett

To:

Ruiz, Alex

Date:

7/19/2007 10:27:58 AM

Subject: Fwd: 5700 Block of Soledad Mt. Road - Concerns of Citizens

CC:

Boekamp, Patti; Bruce, Janet; Haas, Richard; Jarrell, David

Alex - we need to chat about this before I call Mr. Crabbe back... I believe that this is about to become another Carminito Avola and the proximity to Desert View only exacerbates the concern. A three inch drop in four months is not normal... even for trench subsidence. jim

Jim Barrett, P.E. Director, Water Department City of San Diego 600 "B" Street, Suite 1300, MS 913 San Diego, CA 92101-4588 O: 619.533.7555 F: 619.533.7593 ibarrett@sandiego.gov

>> > Janet Bruce 7/19/2007 10:23 AM >>> Jim, Mr. Tom Crabbe (619) 997-4359 called asking to speak to you regarding concerns that he and his neighbors have.

Emergency work was done last night by the Water Department. The crew did a great job. However, he and his neighbors are very concerned because something is going on in the area. The street that was patched last March has separated and the street appears to have dropped 3 inches. He believes the City just plans to repatch the street. They feel the ground may be shifting which may have caused the break last night. There was major damage in the past on Desert View Drive (to 4 homes) which is below their street. They feel that the City should send out a geologist to see if something is happenings in the area, before any major darmage occurs.

He would like someone to call him back regarding their concerns.

Jamet

SignOnSepDics.com



More Metro news

More of Mount Soledad may be prone to collapse

Geologists, residents monitoring seaward side

By Mark Sauer and Chet Barfield UNION-TRIBUNE STAFF WRITERS

October 6, 2007

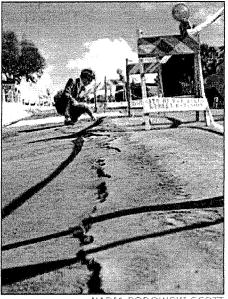
Another section of Mount Soledad – this one with ocean views – may be poised for a landslide, threatening more homes with the kind of devastation that struck the eastern slope this week, geologists reported yesterday.

Anxious residents and soils experts have been monitoring the same kinds of telltale cracks in pavement and houses, and breaks in water lines, that appeared before the land gave way Wednesday morning, wrecking several houses and a section of Soledad Mountain Road.

The latest area of concern is on Caminito Avola in La Jolla Colony, a neighborhood of expensive homes about two-thirds of the way up the north side of Mount Soledad.

Geologists hired by homeowners roamed the La Jolla Colony hillside yesterday, trying to determine how imminent a slide might be and what can be done to stave it off.

"I'm worried that this hill is going to collapse," Cindy Goodman said. Her \$2 million, 3,500-square-foot, four-bedroom house sits across from an 80-foot section of Caminito Avola that is sinking and slanted toward the sea.



NADIA BOROWSKI SCOTT / Union-Tribune

Cindy Goodman examined pavement cracks yesterday that have occurred near her house, which sits across from a sinking section of Caminito Avola.

At the slide on Soledad Mountain Road, city workers and teams of hired consultants were working to restore sewer service to the area as early as today.

Of 111 homes affected by the landslide, seven remained "red-tagged" as uninhabitable and 22 were "yellow-tagged," meaning residents could come and go with escorts.

A legal battle progressed along with recovery work as attorneys filed forms with the city claiming millions in home damages they say was caused by leaking city pipes.

Despite having permission from City Attorney Michael Aguirre to enter the site, soil and water experts hired by homeowners were denied access by police, according to court documents. The lawyers yesterday asked San Diego Superior Court Judge Joan M. Lewis to bar city officials from restricting their experts' access. They and Aguirre met with the judge and agreed to let the inspections proceed, beginning on Monday.

The experts also will be allowed to observe the city's work at the slide site today and tomorrow.

John Schroeder, one of the lawyers representing homeowner Brian Burke, who owns one of the destroyed houses on Soledad Mountain Road, said the goal is to prevent any potential evidence from being lost or destroyed.

To La Jolla Colony homeowners, the more immediate concern is whether they are about to experience a similar slide.

In the coming days, soils experts plan to drill narrow shafts 100 feet into the hills surrounding Caminito Avola and insert instruments to measure the mountain's movement.

City officials said it is up to homeowners to fix the pavement and shore up the hillside because both the street and surrounding land are privately owned.

Soil slippage on private land is what caused the water-line breaks, said Alex Ruiz, the city's assistant water director.

Water leaks began appearing a couple of years ago along Caminito Avola, said Dick Brehm, president of the La Jolla Colony Homeowners Association. A small geyser erupted Aug. 8, 2006.

Caminito Avola: Repeated cracking of street, worsening of sloping JOL Soledad cross Soledad Mountain Road: Site of Wednesday s landslide 1/2 mile 15 SAN DIEGO 5 COUNTY Detail area San *El Cajon Diego SOURCES: ESRI: TeleAllas: USGS

AARON STECKELBERG / Union-Tribune

The city repaired it, but within weeks, the street "started to subside," Brehm said. Repeated inquiries to the city over many months were ignored, he said.

Then in late July, the city sent a letter saying the homeowners were responsible for all damages and repairs, Brehm said. City workers shut off the water main below the street and installed an above-ground pipe.

Attorneys were hired, and the homeowners filed claims calling for the city to spend tens of millions of dollars to shore up the mountainside and repair existing cracks.

The city rejected the claims last month, clearing the way for lawsuits.

Aguirre yesterday sent his attorneys to inspect Caminito Avola and Via Avola. An engineering geologist hired by the homeowners' law firm concluded that a catastrophic collapse is "inevitable."

"There's a definite pattern there that suggests it eventually will tear up," said geologist Steven Borron of American Geotechnical.

When a slide might occur could be determined by extensive



NADIA BOROWSKI SCOTT / Union-Tribune Cindy Goodman stood near cracks yesterday that have developed over the past 14 months near her house on Caminito Avola, on the north side of Mount Soledad. "I'm worried that this hill is going to collapse," she said.

testing in the coming weeks, he added.

Borron said he found significant damage in one Caminito Avola house, including large cracks on interior walls. He didn't think the owner should move out, "but it's a definite indication that movement is occurring."

Major slides on another section of the same street damaged two homes after rains in 2005. Borron said that entire section of the north slope of Mount Soledad is geologically unstable.

"Caminito Avola is in the worst possible location to build on," he said.

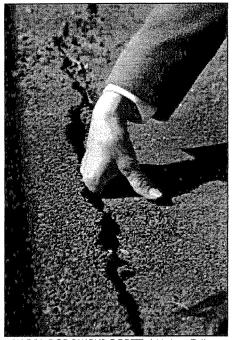
Back on Soledad Mountain Road, Susan Kazanchi returned for a look at her home, which sits about 50 feet from the massive slide that devoured two other houses.

Kazanchi's house escaped direct damage, but is listed by the city as uninhabitable. Her family spent the day retrieving valuables from the house and loading them into a sport utility vehicle.

Kazanchi, 28, a dental hygienist, was irate. She accused city officials of ignoring months of complaints about leaking water pipes and other problems.

Asked what she thought caused the landslide, she replied: "It's up to the lawyers, up to the geologists, up to the city. I'm not an expert."

Preliminary findings are that the "slide plane" appears to be about 25 to 31 feet deep, said geologist Mike Hart, a consultant to the city. Below that are what appear to be undisturbed layers of soil and clay, he said.



NADIA BOROWSKI SCOTT / Union-Tribune Cindy Goodman showed the cracks in the pavement on Caminito Avola in the neighborhood of La Jolla Colony, which is about two-thirds of the way up the north side of Mount Soledad.

Hart said a main contributor to the slide appears to be the cutting away of the natural slope in the 1960s to create a terrace on which homes were built on Desert View Drive below.

The dirt was supporting the toe of the slide plane, holding back the hillside like a cork in a tilting bottle.

The city's lead engineering geologist, Robert Hawk, said additional data on the slide plane will be analyzed over the next several days to plan temporary and long-term repairs.

Officials downplayed suggestions that a rash of recent small earthquakes helped trigger the landslide.

Mayor Jerry Sanders met with state officials at the site yesterday morning. He also spoke by phone with Mary Peters, secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Greg Renick of the California Office of Emergency Services said officials would soon decide how much federal money might be sought to rebuild Soledad Mountain Road and adjoining infrastructure.

Down the mountain, just east of the slide, Desert View Drive residents walked past signs banning heavy trucks from the sensitive street.

Several snapped ironic photographs of the no-truck signs and a multi-ton skiploader and two backhoes parked along Desert View.

But it's not just the huge construction vehicles rumbling by that are bothersome. Many residents are tired of the stream of media and gawkers traipsing in and out of their neighborhood.

SignOnSanDiego.com > News > Metro -- More of Mount Soledad may be prone to collap... Page 4 of 4

Newlyweds Miguel and Sarah Barroso couldn't resist a chance to catch a glimpse of the crumpled mountain that has been making national news all week.

The couple, from Northampton, Mass., are honeymooning in San Diego. They already had visited the zoo, Balboa Park and SeaWorld. Yesterday, Mount Soledad was tops on their sight-seeing list.

"We figured people back home might want to see it," Miguel Barroso said. "We're just curious."

■Staff writers Dana Littlefield, Maureen Magee, Alex Roth, Jeanette Steele, Michael Stetz and Jennifer Vigil contributed to this report.

Find this article at:

http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/metro/20071006-9999-1n6slide.html

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

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From:

Jim Fisher

To: Date: RuizA@sandiego.gov Fri, Jul 20, 2007 7:06 PM

Subject:

RE: Fwd: Re: Soledad Mtn Road

Alex, That is the location of the break last night. Lets talk on Monday to determine how we want to look further into this. Jim

----Original Message----

From: "Alex Ruiz" RuizA@sandiego.gov

To: JFisher@sandiego.gov Sent: 7/20/07 5:10 PM

Subject: Fwd: Re: Soledad Mtn Road

Jim (F):

This is a ways south from our Caminito Avola location... Did we have a main break at Mr. Crab's location....??

Alex

(619) 533-6692 Assistant Director Water Department

>>> Richard Haas 7/19/2007 11:26 AM >>>

Hi Thyme,

Jim Barrett, the Director of the Water Department, is researching this problem and is planning to call Mr. Crab back.

Jim or Alex Ruiz (Assistant Director) will send you an e-mail and let you know the summary of their discussions.

Rich

>>> Thyme Curtis 7/19/2007 10:34 AM >>> Hi Rich,

A constituent named Tom Crab (619.997.4359, 5703 Soledad Mtn Road) just called and is very concerned about Soledad Mtn Road, specifically in front of 5715 Soledad Mtn Road. He said that the street has been sinking and cracking for the past few months, and back in March 2007 he reported a crack in the street that was subsequently patched. Last night a pipe cracked and is currently being fixed by city crews, but Mr. Crab believes something more is going on underneath the street, that it is sinking or moving. He's hoping a geologist or engineer can take a look before something major happens.

Thanks,

Thyme

Thyme Curtis Council Representative Councilmember Kevin Faulconer, Second District (619) 236-7351 (phone) (619) 236-6996 (fax) Disclosure: This email is public information. Correspondence to and from this email address is recorded and may be viewed by third parties and the public upon request.

[Message delivered by NotifyLink]

CC:

JFisher@sandiego.gov

From:

Patti Boekamp

To:

Hossein Ruhi

Date:

7/23/2007 6:21:28 PM

Subject:

Fwd: 5700 Block of Soledad Mt. Road - Concerns of Citizens

I think Rob should go take a look at the area....what do you think?

>>> Jim Barrett 7/19/2007 10:27 AM >>>

Alex - we need to chat about this before I call Mr. Crabbe back... I believe that this is about to become another Caminito Avola and the proximity to Desert View only exacerbates the concern. A three inch drop in four months is not normal... even for trench subsidence. jim

Jim Barrett, P.E.
Director, Water Department
City of San Diego
600 "B" Street, Suite 1300, MS 913
San Diego, CA 92101-4588
O: 619.533.7555
F: 619.533.7593
ibarrett@sandlego.gov

.>>> Janet Bruce 7/19/2007 10:23 AM >>>

Jim, Mr. Tom Crabbe (619) 997-4359 called asking to speak to you regarding concerns that he and his neighbors have.

Emergency work was done last night by the Water Department. The crew did a great job. However, he and his neighbors are very concerned because something is going on in the area. The street that was patched last March has separated and the street appears to have dropped 3 inches. He believes the City just plans to repatch the street. They feel the ground may be shifting which may have caused the break last night. There was major damage in the past on Desert View Drive (to 4 homes) which is below their street. They feel that the City should send out a geologist to see if something is happenings in the area, before any major damage occurs.

He would like someone to call him back regarding their concerns.

Janet

Working Together to Engineer a Better Tomorrow

>>> Hossein Ruhi 7/24/07 6:07 AM >>> Are aware of this situation ? lets talk . we should visit the site

>>> Patti Boekamp 07/23/2007 3:59 PM >>>

We have Rob Hawk, a Senior Geologist - he may have even been here when Desert View had to be pinned back to the hillside....I was out late last week, so perhaps you already got someone to have Rob go take a look.

Patti

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